Mr. K. C. Mamman Mapillay, B. A., (*Kottayam*) in supporting the views of the previous speakers observed that in British India the extension of the railway was pushed on with expedition and vigour, and it would not do for Travancore alone to lag behind.

Reply.—The suggestions brought forward at the Assembly might be grouped under three classes, *viz.*, (1) those which can be adopted, (2) those which cannot be and (3) those in which it would be difficult to give a definite and immediate reply. As regards the first two classes, I have striven to state my replies in unambiguous terms, but in respect of the last class under which, I must say, the present subject comes, Government can only state that the matter will receive consideration. This should be taken only as an assurance on their part to pay due attention to the arguments and representations put forward by the members and to do what could be done after considering the question in all its aspects, and not construed as a promise, as seems to be the impression in the minds of some of the members, entitling any one to criticise Government when no action immediately follows, as though there had been a breach of the promise. Coming to the actual question now brought forward, there are divergent opinions among men qualified to speak on the subject about the desirability of connecting Quilon and Trivandrum by a railway. The Shencottah-Quilon line has had a very depressing effect on the finances, and the loss by way of guaranteed interest has so far amounted to two and a quarter lakhs of rupees. It is not possible to know when our exchequer will regain its original condition and in the circumstances the best course seems to be to wait and see whether the existing line will pay. In the present financial position of the State, I fear it will not be possible for some years to come to take up any new scheme of the kind now proposed, either in the south or in the north.

136. Introduction of Motor Service.

Mr. S. Krishna Iyer, B. A., B. L., (*T. I. C., Alleppey*) said that it was desirable not only to open new lines of railway, but also to introduce motor service wherever convenient.

Reply.—Motor service might be left to private enterprise.

137. Extension of Steam-Launch Service.

Mr. Kumara Menon (*T. I. C., Kottayam*) represented that

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

steam-launch service was now left to the mercy of private firms who conducted it in the most irregular and haphazard manner, often putting passengers to great difficulty and bitter disappointment. He suggested that Government might themselves start steam-boat service between Alleppey and Kottayam and thus afford some relief to the people of those localities.

Mr. S. Swamy Iyengar of Trivandrum (Nominated), Mr. P. Kesava Pillai, B. A., B. L., and Mr. K. Krishnan Pandalay, B. A., B. L., (Quilon) who had against their names the allied subject of deepening the water-way between Trivandrum and Alleppey with a view to render it fit for steam-launch navigation, said that as the matter had been already replied to, they had nothing to say on the subject newly.

Reply.—This is also a matter for private enterprise, and it will be seen that some firms are already engaged in plying steam boats. As already mentioned in reply to representation No. 128, the question of investing a large sum in the improvement of water-ways is already engaging the attention of Government.

138. Opening of harbours towards the development of coasting trade.

Mr. S. Krishna Iyer, B. A., B. L., (T. I. C., Alleppey) suggested that with a view to bring the coasting trade of the State to a more flourishing and satisfactory condition, more harbours might be opened wherever possible and a customs-house attached to each of them.

Reply.—It is doubtful if the member has sufficiently realized the magnitude of his proposal and the important issues involved in it. It means prohibitive cost, not to speak of numerous other difficulties in the way. There is a harbour now at Alleppey as well as a port at Quilon. We cannot think of opening any more harbours now. As regards customs-houses, the question may be brought to the notice of the Excise Commissioner, who will then consider the same.

139. Improvement of the Sri Mulam Harbour.

Mr. M. Bhuthalingam Pillai (Eraniel) observed that the condition of the Sri Mulam Harbour in South Travancore left much room for improvement.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly